





# THE DAILY TEXAN

Volume 112, Number 142

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## CORRECTION

Because of an editing error, the headline in Monday's page 1 news story about students volunteering at a shelter for immigrants and asylum-seekers should have said "UT students volunteer at immigrant shelter."

## TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High 48 Low 24

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# SAFETY

continues from PAGE 1

Public Safety Commissioner Aman Bandali said to make up for the lack of employees, AFD, EMS and police dispatchers could be trained to respond to a broad range of calls, rather than a single area.

"If we can train them, we won't need a middle person, we can just send the units off straight [away]," Bandali said. "I think we'd be saving a lot of resources and tax dollars."

Updated emergency call technology is expected in the spring and will include more accurate tracking and recording of cell phones and landlines. The technology would replace the 40-year-old system currently in use, which routes calls across phone lines.

The possibility of text-in 911 calls from mobile devices, or "Next Generation 911," is in the pre-production stages. The new system would be operated through a different type of technology, and there is no guarantee when it will be standardized, Brooks said.

Another concern for the future of Austin's 911 system involves the dispatch of AFD and EMS in response to emergency calls, an ongoing debate from the commission's December 2010 meeting.

"The debate is over what we practice, and what the industry



Tamir Kalifa | Daily Texan Staff

Trainees of the Austin Fire Department practice fire hose mobility with a burn building at the City of Austin Public Safety Training Campus. Austin's Public Safety Commission is encouraging improvement through better dispatcher training and advanced response technology.

standard is," AFD spokesperson Michelle DeCrane said. "We almost always send two units to re-

spond to calls, but the crux of the debate is if we really need two or if we should just send one and allow

another to remain available to respond to other calls."

The commission will continue

to discuss methods of improving the emergency call system in future meetings.

# PROTEIN

continues from PAGE 1

protein reaction and delay the progression of the disease, Xu said.

"The discovery we found has the potential to identify a compound, or drugs, to lead to effective treatment for this disease," Xu said.

Although medication exists that can slow the onset of the disease, Xu said no treatment is currently available to stop the degeneration

of nerve cells that results from Alzheimer's disease.

Scientists know little about the cause of the terminal disease, said Veronica Galvan, assistant professor for the center's Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies. The irreversible condition, which typically affects people over 65, is marked by a decline in cognitive ability to access and form memories, reason

and think clearly.

"There are many aspects of the disease that we don't understand," Galvan said. "The way to get control of the situation is to understand it. Before we can try to find drugs, we should concentrate more on thoroughly understanding the biology, and then once we have the understanding, the opportunity about what to do about it will be obvious."

Many Alzheimer's patients have plaques, lesions in the brain that have been thought to contribute to the disease, according to a press release. The disease affects an estimated 5.3 million people in the U.S. alone and is the leading cause of dementia among the elderly.

EMBO Reports, a European molecular biology journal, published the finding in its Feb. 4 issue Friday.

Xu made the discovery as part of her doctoral dissertation. She has been working on this project for five years in Thomas Boyer's lab at the Health Science Center's Institute of Biotechnology. Haiying Zhou — who already obtained her doctoral degree in Boyer's laboratory and is now pursuing postdoctoral studies at University of California, Berkeley — co-authored the study.

# SAC

continues from PAGE 1

"The Common event is something that the African American Culture Committee wanted to do but couldn't necessarily afford on their budget alone, so this was an opportunity for them to co-sponsor with the SAC for the grand opening events," Smith said.

Samantha Smith, chair of the culture committee, said the group is glad to be part of the opening week and proud to be able to host Common.

"We were looking for something big to bring to campus that students would love," she said. "Common does college tours

about things that are appreciated by students and that are important to him — mostly music — so he brings a really good dynamic to the program."

More than 450 people attended the Zach Braff event Monday — the first held in the new SAC auditorium — leaving standing room only.

Jeanette Hooker, Student Events Center advisor, said once a committee surveys students to determine which speaking they want, it is fairly easy to contact agencies to book the celebrity guests.

"The SEC student committee members compile lists of artists they want to bring to campus, and we contact the speakers bureaus to see if they are tour-

ing and within our budget," she said.

Government junior Tyler Allison said he has attended many distinguished speaker events including Monday's "An Evening with Zach Braff," last semester's advanced season premier of TV show "Psych" featuring leading men James Roday and Dule Hill, and Maya Angelou in 2009.

Allison said the fee included in tuition is well worth the cost to be able to attend the celebrity speaker events.

"I don't even miss the money because it's a small fee tacked onto tuition that most students probably never even pay attention to," he said. "I'd prefer big celebrity events every year over holding on to a few bucks any day."

# SEXT

continues from PAGE 1

Under current legislation, if underage sexting is reported, an offender can be brought up on felony charges of possessing or trafficking child pornography. However, most cases probably go either unreported or without punishment, Watson said.

If the bill passes, when underage sexting is reported to authorities, offenders would have to participate in an educational program about the long-term legal and social ramifications of sexting, and the charges would remain on the offender's record until age 17, at which time it could be expunged. Judges would still have the authority to charge the offender for possessing or trafficking child pornography if they decide the offender is a budding pedophile, Watson said.

If a recipient feels that they are an innocent receiver of a pornographic text message and they report it to the authorities within 48 hours, they can use that as a defense against

prosecution, he said.

The bill would also require school districts to implement a program to educate their students on the possible consequences of sexting as a part of their secondary education. The fiscal costs of these programs would be left up to the school districts instead of the government, Watson said.

The focus is on education, said Lauri Saathoff, a spokeswoman at the attorney general's office. If someone does receive a sext from a minor, they need to report it to law enforcement or a parent, she said.

Sexting is harder to track than other cybercrimes because phones are less public, but the first step to fixing the problem is to educate teens across Texas who are sexting by providing age-appropriate information, Abbott said.

"The goal is not to put more teens behind bars," he said. "The goal is to educate them. Putting a teen behind bars doesn't help a whole lot."

# THE DAILY TEXAN

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## NEWS BRIEFLY

### Egypt releases Google executive who led opposition on Facebook

CAIRO — The young Google Inc. executive detained by Egyptian authorities for 12 days said Monday he was behind the Facebook page that helped spark what he called “the revolution of the youth of the Internet.”

Wael Ghonim, a marketing manager for the Internet company, gave a television interview just hours after he was freed and described how he spent 12 days in detention blindfolded.

“This is the revolution of the youth of the Internet and now the revolution of all Egyptians,” he said, adding that he was taken aback when the security forces holding him branded him a traitor.

“Anyone with good intentions is the traitor because being evil is the norm,” he said.

### Chilean woman stops boyfriend from leaving with bomb threat

SANTIAGO, Chile — People are capable of doing many things for love. What Grace Guajardo did forced the evacuation of more than 300 people from a plane moments before takeoff.

Authorities say she phoned in a false bomb threat to keep her boyfriend from flying off to a new job.

Her man, Rodrigo Gomez, had already boarded Iberia Flight 6830 for Madrid on Sunday, planning to take a months-long job as a cruise ship waiter.

Desperate that he was leaving, Grace admitted she called the airport from her cell phone demanding that authorities tell Gomez his father was gravely ill. When that didn’t work, she called back, alleging there was a bomb on the plane, authorities said.

Prosecutors decided not to invoke the more severe anti-terrorism law after hearing the couple’s story.

The couple informed the court that they have lived together for eight years and have three children.

“I can’t be angry, I have to support her. What she needs is love, nothing more,” Gomez said, and they kissed again before the cameras.

— Compiled by reports from The Associated Press



Pete Muller | Associated Press

Southern Sudanese celebrate the formal announcement of referendum results in the southern capital of Juba on Monday. Referendum officials indicated that nearly 99 percent of all voters cast ballots in favor of southern independence. Southern Sudan will remain united with the north until the expiration of Comprehensive Peace Agreement in July 2011.

## Southern Sudan to secede after decades of war

By Jason Straziuso & Maggie Fick  
The Associated Press

JUBA, Sudan — The mud-hut town of Juba has earned a promotion to world capital later this year. Only Southern Sudan needs far more than its own currency and a national an-

them: Most of the roads here are dirt and even aid workers live in shipping containers.

In a little more than five months, Southern Sudan is slated to become the world’s newest country. Final results from last month’s independence referendum announced on Monday

show that 98.8 percent of the ballots cast were for secession from Sudan’s north.

Two decades of war between the predominantly Muslim north and rebels in the Christian-an-

themist south killed at least 2 million people before a 2005 peace agreement was reached. Resi-

dents are jubilant to have their own country at last, though much work remains. “The list is long,” said Athai Peter, 25, as he stood at a job advertisement board outside a U.N. agency on Monday. “The roads are so poor in many places that we have very high food prices.”

A new currency must be established. Diplomatic missions need to be opened. And a country name must be chosen.

Critical negotiations still must be held with the north to decide on citizenship rights, oil rights and even the final border demarcation.

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## VIEWPOINT

## Ask tough questions

You may have noticed a cold chill in the air earlier this week. The sun has retreated behind a heavy blanket of clouds and cast the landscape in a dead grayish hue. There can be only one explanation for the sudden turn: Student Government elections are upon us.

Sandwiched between pleas for your vote, you'll probably catch plenty of comments about how SG is stupid, a waste of time and money or an elaborate resume-padding scheme. And when those representatives elected by the student body spend their time passing symbolic resolutions, those comments may very well be accurate.

What critics rarely recognize, though, are the areas where elected students have a huge impact. For example, there are five students who sit on the Student Services Budgeting Committee, which annually allocates more than \$37.9 million in student fee money.

The Executive Committee also appoints students to boards governing the University Unions, Texas Student Media, Presidential Advisory Committee, University Area Partners and the Faculty Council.

The rest of the elected representatives still play important roles, especially insofar as they must approve by vote all those student appointments (there are more than 40 external positions). This necessary check should ideally ensure that only the most qualified and enthusiastic students are appointed to these extremely influential positions.

Unfortunately, as often happens, these appointments are rubber-stamped with few or no questions asked regarding a student's qualification, motivations or intentions.

But over the next two weeks, the student body has an opportunity to conduct its own litmus test. While races for the University Unions Board, the Co-op Board and Texas Student Media are often relegated to the shadow of more fiercely-contested elections, students should use the next two weeks to ask tough questions of the candidates for these influential positions.

For example, the University Co-op Board of Directors includes four students who are elected to two-year terms. Along with SG, students on the Co-op Board have helped in the past year to implement the new textbook rental program.

But having students in these positions does not always result in those boards acting in the interest of students. The University Union Board has six seats reserved for students, including four that are chosen by students in university-wide elections every March, including the Student Government president, the Student Event Center president and two students selected to serve exclusively on the Unions Board.

However, last year when the Unions Board announced plans to close the iconic Cactus Cafe, many students protested the decision. This episode highlighted a disconnect between those elected to serve and the wishes of those students who elected them. That type of disconnect is most prone to develop when these candidates are allowed to fly under the radar during elections.

Students like to complain when they disagree with the choices made by elected representatives, but they're less vocal during the formative process when candidates volunteer themselves and campaign.

Be proactive. Even if you don't have the time or interest to commit to running for one of these election positions, take the time to learn about the candidates and their platforms. Doing so will only increase the quality of student leadership at UT.

Last year, even with the Cactus Cafe controversy, only five students ran for a spot on the University Unions Board, and two were elected. The Co-op Board of Directors had even less participation, with three candidates running for two positions.

UT deserves better participation not just from student candidates but from student voters as well.

Filing material for the University Unions Board is available on the fourth floor of the Texas Union in the administrative offices. Information about filing for the University Co-op Board of Directors is available in at Co-op's executive offices at 23rd and Nueces streets. The filing deadline for both positions is 5 p.m. today.

— Dave Player for the editorial board

## LEGALESE

Opinions expressed in The Daily Texan are those of the editor, the Editorial Board or the writer of the article. They are not necessarily those of the UT administration, the Board of Regents or the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees.

## THE FIRING LINE

## What's your stance on stipends?

I want to applaud Andrew Nash's Firing Line, "A grand sacrifice," in Monday's paper concerning student stipends.

This is the exact kind of action this campus needs over the next several semesters. There is no excuse for student leaders to continue to accept large financial stipends given the current economic situation. Countless organizations and student groups on campus do just as much if not more work to better the lives and college experience of UT students on a regular basis — without getting paid.

The current Student Government Executive Board has already taken a step in the right direction by offering a scholarship funded totally by the student fees earmarked for their own monthly pay check. Once again, this is a step in the right direction, but more must be done.

I hope students registering to run for SG elections or other paid positions follow Andrew Nash's lead. More importantly, I hope students on campus remember to ask those running what their stance on stipends is.

Remember, it's your money. It's your decision.

— John A. Lawler  
Student Government Internal Affairs Chair  
Liberal Arts Representative



Ben Curtis | Associated Press

Anti-government protesters pray in front of an army tank and armored personnel carrier at the continuing protest in Tahrir Square in downtown Cairo, Egypt, on Monday, Feb. 7, 2011.

## An articulated vision for Egypt

By Isis Gaber  
Daily Texan Guest Columnist

Egypt is the current political cliché, a distant place of focus for media outlets and political analysts to discuss and "figure out." However, for me, it is my birthplace and where my brother and cousin are currently doing their part to gain freedom from the oppressive government led by 82-year old dictator, Hosni Mubarak.

It is so easy to put Egypt in to a sea of clichés and forget that it is actually affecting 85 million people. Egypt is following in the footsteps of Tunisia, and Jordan, Yemen and Morocco hope to follow in Egypt's footsteps.

However, these footsteps are wavering, as Mubarak defies expectations and remains in office — even though millions have taken to the streets of Cairo and other Egyptian cities to protest his "presidency" and his economic disappointments and oppression of rights. Of course, the blame should not be put on Mubarak alone; it is the entire regime that has been in power for decades, continually silencing the voices of the Egyptian masses. However, after seeing Tunisia defeat its "thugocracy," these Egyptian masses now no longer view their dictator-based government as untouchable; they are no longer

mythical.

For years, many Egyptians have been discontented with their government, which created a multi-dimensional state of corruption and forced its people to live under emergency law for 30 years. So the question is: Is this revolution or evolution? Did this change happen overnight, or is this a gradual change in society? Egyptians are experiencing an evolution, in which a civil society is trying to develop itself out of the current regime oppression; people are tired of feeling undignified, and now they're taking to the streets to demand their rights.

My brother, a journalist for an English speaking newspaper in Cairo, has been reporting from Tahrir Square and is caught in the everyday struggles of his fellow Egyptians. Every day I feel proud to know that members of my family are facilitating this dream. In turn, the Egyptians and other Arabs are articulating their hopes and visions, and rising up to stand against tyranny and oppression.

I, too, have taken to facilitating this vision by taking to the streets of Austin, Texas along with other Arab-Americans and Americans. We articulated our hope, inspired by the "Yes, we can!" attitude driven by the Obama 2008 campaign. I, along with other Arabs, chanted "Yuskut, Yuskut Hosni

Mubarak" ("Down, Down") and "Show me what democracy looks like! This is what democracy looks like!"

Those and many other chants propelled the small crowd of 250 protestors to feel as one body, cheering on Egyptians and showing our support from abroad. I felt so moved by this protest, and I'm sure the feeling in Egypt right now is a million times stronger. As I stood among 250 people, my brother and cousin stood among millions in Egypt.

Although Egypt is giving many media outlets headlines, it is more importantly giving families, citizens and countries hope — a feeling that has been lost among the masses for generations in the Middle East. This is not just another news story; it is an event that carries global implications. This "revolution in the making" is a long-term process, so as news headlines fade and the public eye is not focused on Egypt, it does not mean that the societal evolution is not proceeding.

Embrace the title "citizen of the world" and do not just observe the news, take part in it; take part in history. Together, we can create an articulated vision that brilliantly blinds the corruption and gives light to democracy.

Gaber is an undeclared sophomore.

## A university of the first class

By Jimmy Talarico  
Daily Texan Guest Columnist

The Texas Constitution sets a standard that UT be a university of "the first class."

Last spring, Gov. Rick Perry ordered mandatory budget decreases to all state agencies, including UT, in anticipation of a massive state budget shortfall. For months, our campus struggled with the impacts of these cuts. From reduced gym hours to threatened ethnic and identity studies centers, from new doctor visit fees to the elimination of entire academic programs, we have questioned, protested and persevered.

Over the past year, we've also seen victories. Student leaders and student media have risen to the challenge by increasing student representation through newly established College Tuition and Budget Advisory Boards, promoting transparency through open Student Services Budget Committee meetings and advocating for student interests at the highest levels.

However, we have yet to address the root of our problems: the Texas Legislature.

The 82nd Legislature gavelled into session on Jan. 11. Over the past few days, lawmakers have released proposals to bridge the state's \$27-billion budget shortfall. Last week, the Senate released its version of the state budget. Similar to the House's proposal, the Senate budget slashes financial aid programs by \$381 million, reduces the number of students receiving TEXAS Grants — the state's main financial aid program — by half (from 156,225 students to 78,080 students) and cuts 11.1 percent, or \$87.9 million, from state and federal money allotted to the University. In response to these proposals, the Austin American-Statesman wondered if "UT's 'first class' status is in jeopardy."

Last year, we fought budget cuts on campus; this year, we'll take the fight to the Capitol.

This semester Student Government, the Senate of College Councils, the Graduate Student Assembly and other student organizations have joined together to create the "Invest in Texas" campaign. The campaign will organize

students to lobby lawmakers to adequately fund UT, protect financial aid programs and allow us to stay academically competitive.

The campaign is not a laundry list but a sales pitch. In a difficult economic climate, students cannot demand continued state support for our university without a compelling justification. Fortunately, we have the most compelling justification: It's a good investment.

The Invest in Texas campaign will work relentlessly to drive home a single statistic: For every dollar the state invests in UT, \$18 is generated for the Texas economy.

Adequately funding UT and providing support to its students is not an expenditure for the state but is a lucrative venture. Faculty-generated research attracts more than \$400 million in federal grants, while advanced research creates opportunities for licensing, patents and business start-ups. Each year, out-of-state students and funding create an economic expansion effect for the Texas economy generating more than \$2 billion in business activity and more than 15,000 new jobs. Most importantly, the students that grow, live and learn at this University become leaders in business, the arts and the sciences. As students, we must implore lawmakers not to damage the greatest engine of intellectual and economic development for our state.

The Invest in Texas campaign will kick-off at 8 a.m. Wednesday in the SG and Senate of College Councils office, Room 2.102 of the Student Activity Center. We'll walk from the Student Activity Center to the Capitol to attend the first Senate Finance Committee hearing. At the hearing, lawmakers will discuss the proposed budget cuts to UT. The hearing is open to the public, and participation is strongly encouraged. Please join us, wear burnt orange and ensure the student voice is heard.

Together students can ensure our campus faces the future as a university of the first class.

For more information visit <http://facebook.com/invest-Texas> or follow @InvestinTexas on Twitter.

Talarico is the director of the Invest in Texas campaign.



STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT



Andrew Valenzuela walks through the space between the Student Activity Center and Gregory Gym on Monday evening.

Ryan Propes | Daily Texan Staff

82ND LEGISLATURE

Schools that serve blind, deaf students threatened by cuts

By Sommer Ingram  
The Associated Press

Texas school districts could see an increase in lawsuits if special needs children are refused admission to the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the School for the Deaf because of cuts in the proposed state budget, superintendents told senators Monday.

Bill Daugherty, superintendent for the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, said if forced to operate with less money as proposed under the state Senate's draft budget, the school won't be able to enroll new students who have a legal right to a "free, appropriate education" under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The school has no mechanism to cap enrollment, instead placing students on a wait list until a spot becomes available.

The School for the Deaf, which has a legal obligation to accept students referred by local school districts for admission, faces similar obstacles.

With more than 500 students and enrollment steadily increasing, the school can't sustain the 10-percent cut lawmakers are proposing without cutting personnel and making drastic changes in services, superintendent Claire Bugen said.

The School for the Blind and Visually Impaired is requesting 15 more teachers and staff, and had hoped for an additional \$1.4 million to cover the cost of providing an education for 12 to 16 new students.

In the face of a \$27 billion budget shortfall, Sen. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, said "it may be appropriate in some cases to charge tuition."

Bugen said that is not allowed under federal law.

Social media startups cultivate UT students' business potential

Hoot.me app for Facebook lets students offer help, share homework questions

By Yvonne Marquez  
Daily Texan Staff

Late one night in November 2009, finance and business honors junior Michael Koetting couldn't figure out a calculus homework problem. He logged onto Facebook to see if any of his friends online could help.

"I realized that there was no way I could communicate this problem to somebody online, let alone find someone who was working on it," Koetting said. "I thought how awesome would it be to have a live knowledge network."

Koetting came up with the idea for Hoot.me, a Facebook application that instantly connects students with people in their social network who may be able to help with homework questions.

The application came in first at the Startup Camp 3: Comms Edition, a competition to showcase amateur entrepreneurs in communication technology on Feb. 3.

On the first night Koetting and two co-founders launched the site, they saw an immediate response to the product, said Sid Upadhyay, a business honors senior and co-founder of Hoot.me.

Upadhyay said Facebook is already a social experience, and the application tried to build on the existing foundation. He said he wanted the

app to have an interactive quality.

The application has "smart chat," which helps simplify things such as square root symbols to express difficult math, chemistry or physics problems. He said the application could potentially be used as virtual office hours.

"One of the problems that has driven us is that Facebook chat is what everyone uses so it's very limiting in the fact that you can't communicate dense topics," Upadhyay said.

The application also includes video conferencing and screen sharing for Facebook. Computer science senior Gaurav Sanghani, who wrote most of the code, said he will improve the video conferencing on Hoot.

"Hoot takes up massive amounts of bandwidth so I'm trying to make sure the quality of the picture looks nice and acts properly," Sanghani said.

Undergraduate studies junior Lourdes Salinas said she would rather meet in person to understand difficult problems she does not understand.

"I'm a more visual person so I don't think I would use it very much," Salinas said. "I think I would set up a meeting with someone to explain things to me. But it is very convenient because most of us are on Facebook 24/7."

Koetting said the next step for Hoot is getting enough users to use the application to its fullest potential.

"It's all grassroots right now," he said. "Word of mouth is by far the best tool we have."

Entrepreneur starts website to connect, engage pupils with employers after college

By Allie Kolechta  
Daily Texan Staff

A website created by a UT student uses social media to create jobs and internship opportunities for students at universities across Central Texas, including UT, Austin Community College and St. Edward's University.

Economics junior Dan Miller began working on the idea for *thedreamtree.org* about a year ago while at an internship at the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, before he founded the company in August. He launched the website on Jan. 1, but the company will continue to expand the website until April 1.

The company is student-owned and -operated, and internship seekers must have an .edu or .mil e-mail address to qualify for an account.

"The end goal of the website is to bridge the gap between education and career," he said. "We feel that the process is not being done well right now, because students don't have enough support and guidance in their search for internships."

The website will implement programs to incorporate tech-

nology and software into internships by providing opportunities to work online from a remote location, Miller said.

Dreamtree is also working to set up project-based internships, so instead of working a traditional three- to six-month internship, students could do single projects for a number of different companies, he said.

"Every company out there right now with an internship service is just a job board, essentially," he said. "That's what we are right now, but we have a ton of other services that we're going to add to the website to change the way

that this process is done."

Dreamtree representatives approach companies who don't already have internship programs and create programs in those companies, said Chris Sheppard, senior adviser and partner in the business.

"What we really do here is create jobs," he said. "Whether they be part-time or full-time, we are creating internship opportunities that you wouldn't otherwise have had."

Broadcast journalism junior Madison Roberts created an account on *thedreamtree.org* after a neighbor who interned for the

website recommended it. While the concept of companies seeking students and new types of internships are appealing, Roberts said she found an internship through UT's career services.

"Right now I haven't had a ton of luck with Dreamtree, but like the concept," she said. "The amount of jobs just isn't there yet but hopefully in the future I can go back and find more opportunities there."

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<http://www.utexas.edu/tsm/media/cactus/>

All rules and instructions are included, so all you have to do is either print the nomination form or pick up one at the William Randolph Hearst Building (HSM), 25th and Whitis Avenue, Room 3.304.

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**TEXAS UT EXES**  
'Til Gabriel blows his horn





Jono Foley | Daily Texan Staff

UT President William Powers Jr. and University Unions Board Chair Andrew Nash cut the ribbon outside the Student Activity Center in honor of its grand opening on Monday.

### Ceremony shows off center’s features

Student volunteers passed out programs embedded with wildflower seeds to demonstrate the environmentally sustainable efforts of the Student Activity Center at an opening ceremony on Monday.

The University Unions hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly developed center, which was completed on Jan. 18. About 200 students and faculty attended the event. University officials scheduled the ceremony for Monday to ensure the building was fully furnished, said Andrew Nash, chair of the University Unions Board of Directors.

Nash said the board wanted to guarantee the building could be used to the full extent of its purposes on opening day. Engineers designed the building with additional spaces for students to use outside of the Texas Union, he said.

“Everything is there for a purpose with a lot of flexible spaces for students to utilize,” Nash said. “We have a black box theater, a ballroom, a dance rehearsal room and several different-sized meeting rooms.”

“It went really well,” said Nick Parraas, associate director of the Student Events Center. “The students running the event did a great job.”

— Victoria Pagan

## News decline persists with no clear solution

By Victoria Pagan  
Daily Texan Staff

Commercialization, lack of opportunity for new journalists and low-quality reporting all contribute to the overall decline of the news media, a visiting journalism professor said.

Robert W. McChesney, professor of communication at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, said at an on-campus lecture Monday that job offers for incoming journalists has declined for the most part.

“We have lost a significant percentage of our foreign correspondents and a significant percentage of our correspondents in Washington,” McChesney said. “New media hasn’t filled much of the void yet.”

The massive decrease of original reporting in Baltimore represents the overall decline in news content and media work, McChesney said. In Baltimore papers, 86 percent of news stories are reused press releases.

“Whatever way you slice it, we are entering the building age of propaganda,” McChesney said.

He does not blame the fall of print and news media on the Internet as many people do.

“What the Internet did instead of creating the problem is it accelerated it,” McChesney said. “The

cause deals with corporate monopoly control of our news media.”

A lack of resources and competent people doing the job has become a big problem with modern media, he said.

“Journalism needs resources. It can’t be done exclusively by people in their pajamas,” McChesney said. “You need competing people pushing things along.”

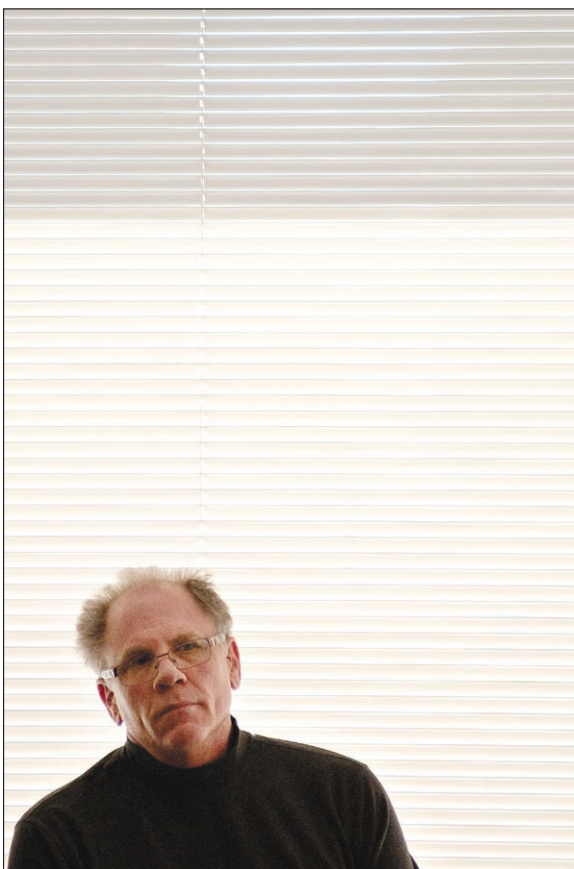
UT journalism professor Robert Jensen, who introduced McChesney at the event, said the obvious problem of news media today is that the current business model has become commercialized, which has led to its downfall.

“What Robert is addressing on the one hand is the immediate problem in the collapse of the model,” Jensen said. “On the other hand is a deeper critique in the way journalism has been practiced.”

McChesney suggests government support as a way to attain resources — not for individual papers or journalists, but for the news media system, Jensen said.

“Robert McChesney’s interpretation of the First Amendment goes beyond simply protection from government censorship,” Jensen said. “It allows for government support for a free news media system, which is necessary for an informed public, which is in turn necessary for democracy.”

Journalism graduate student Jaime Loke said she found the idea of a government-supported free news media to be appealing, but doubted it would work in the United States because



Visiting professor of journalism Robert W. McChesney, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, addressed the current declining state of the news media on Monday afternoon at an on-campus lecture.

Derek Stout  
Daily Texan Staff

Americans are afraid of government involvement.

“I don’t have the magic solution. I wish I did,” Loke said. “But it’s my responsibility as a future journalism educator to be vigilant about promoting good journalism.”

## Deteriorating AOL acquires Huffington Post

By Andrew Vanacore & Michelle Conlin  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tim Armstrong has looked like the unluckiest man in media for the past year. He used to be Google’s ad sales maestro, the definition of digital success. But ever since May 2009, when he took the job of turning around AOL, he has overseen abysmal earnings, wretched morale and a local news strategy that has been slammed as a money-losing Web sweatshop.

Then, in a move that not even the most gossipy of media obsessives saw coming, Armstrong announced at the Super Bowl in Texas that AOL was buying The Huffington Post, the Internet news darling, for \$315 million. Armstrong went from looking lame to looking awfully sharp. And awfully lucky.

Perhaps no online property was lusted after by media moguls like the one Arianna Huffington founded six years ago. Its traffic rivals The New York Times. Its infrastructure is virtually zero-cost. Its social media strategy is practically perfect. Oh, and it turned its first profit last year on \$30 million in revenue. HuffPo expects to triple revenue by 2012.

“The Huffington Post was in big-time growth mode, and in theory this gives them access to the resources they’ll need for even faster growth,” said Andy Chapman, the head of digital trading at MindShare North America, a unit of the ad agency WPP PLC.

Huffington’s original vision was to create the political left’s answer to the right-leaning Drudge Report, minus the venom.

Huffington leveraged her personality and her access to the elite’s dinner-party circuit to lure 250 celebrities — “creative minds,” as she

called them — to blog about topics from business to the boudoir.

These were the earliest days of social media. At the time, seasoned media executives were scared to death of opening up their sites to the madding crowds. Journalism was a heavily filtered, one-way broadcast. Huffington somehow saw around the social-media corner. She persuaded everyone from Walter Cronkite to Diane Keaton to

“The Huffington Post was in big-time growth mode, and in theory this gives them access to the resources they’ll need for even faster growth.”

— Andy Chapman, Head of digital trading at MindShare North America

blog. For a paycheck of zero.

The model was laughably low-cost. To this day, the home page still looks decidedly low-budget and cluttered. Early on, Huffington’s brainchild was also roundly panned. One early critic, New York University journalism professor Jay Rosen, said at the time, “Barry Diller doesn’t have time to hunt down juicy links for his readers.”

But Rosen’s take turned out to be wildly wrong. Huffington’s writers were heavyweights — and because

readers could chime in, she immediately garnered a loyal audience of insatiable news addicts. Huffington sensed, perhaps more than anyone, that readers didn’t just want to share news. They wanted to share it, comment on it and then put it up on their Facebook pages and Twitter accounts.

It wasn’t long before HuffPo started serving as its audience’s curator. Editors scoured the Web for the most scintillating content and then repackaged it on the site. Huffington also understood that on the Web, linking and being linked to is what makes traffic growth steroidal.

But by aggregating other news providers’ content, sites like The Huffington Post, critics say, are poisoning the news revenue model and threatening the Fourth Estate along the way.

Last year, former Washington Post Editor Len Downie Jr. referred to news aggregation sites like The Huffington Post as “parasites living off journalism produced by others.” The Wall Street Journal’s editor-in-chief, Robert Thomson, drew a more specific comparison: “Tech tapeworms.”

Huffington’s site now gets 25 million unique visitors a month, rivaling The New York Times’ 32 million.

AOL can use all the help it can get. The company is widely viewed as a dial-up dog, a relic of the days of the ever-present “You’ve got mail” voice. Of late, its media strategy has seemed schizophrenic. In buying The Huffington Post, AOL is also buying Arianna, who will assume the role of editorial content overlord. For the first time in its history, the company will have an executive who understands how online content works.



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RECRUITING

Lake Travis lineman remains loyal to Longhorns

**By Alex Endress**  
Daily Texan Staff

At 6-feet-5-inches and 270 pounds, Taylor Doyle has signed, sealed and delivered his letter of intent to play Longhorn football.

The Lake Travis High School offensive lineman brings with him three Texas state championships, as well as confidence in Texas football and Texas coaches. This is in spite of witnessing a disappointing year at Texas, a 5-7 season marked by staggering losses and the exit of offensive line coach Mac McWhorter and offensive coordinator Greg Davis, two coaches that recruited Doyle.

"I was bummed out to see the departure of coach McWhorter and coach Davis because I know they have a lot to offer, but I understand the coaching changes," Doyle said.

The recent hire of former Boise State offensive coordinator Bryan Harsin in addition to Major Applewhite's promotion, who will work together as co-offensive coordinators, doesn't disappoint Doyle.

"I'm really excited about this new coaching staff that was brought in," Doyle said. "Now [we'll] be getting the best from Boise State and the best from the Texas program in the past with Applewhite, so I think that can only benefit us."

Doyle is expected to help rebuild a Longhorn offense which struggled last season. Texas ranked 50th in passing, 66th in rushing and 88th in scoring in 2010. The Longhorns will be under pressure to turn their offensive woes around. This will be something of a routine for Doyle, who has



Future Longhorn Taylor Doyle prepares to block a Friendswood defender in Lake Travis' 24-3 win in the 2010 state semifinals. Doyle has been a key part of the Cavaliers' three straight state championships.

faced high expectations from a community that expects greatness.

"I definitely think there will be more pressure at the collegiate level, but our coaches at Lake Travis always stressed that 'pressure makes diamonds.' Without pressure, all you have is a lump of coal," Doyle said. "I think pressure can only be good for us. It can either make or break. I know the new coaches are going to demand a lot from us, which I think will benefit in the long run."

Amassing 85 knockdown blocks during his senior year, the all-state recruit was also taught a little about confidence during his time in high school.

"At Lake Travis we knew how to win. Going into every game, we always knew we had a chance," Doyle said. "I think it goes a long way when

DOYLE continues on PAGE 8



Shereen Ayub | Daily Texan File Photo

Malcolm Brown watches on as his father, Tommy, signs his son's letter of intent. The running back is one of Texas' top recruits.

Brown, Shipley may play in first year

**By Trey Scott**  
Daily Texan Staff

With the excitement of last week's signing day fading, here's a serious look at some of the new Longhorns who could make an immediate impact on the team:

**Malcolm Brown** — RB, 6'0" 220 lbs. (Byron P. Steele HS/Cibolo)

The stud from Cibolo, just outside San Antonio, is already being called the best running back on the roster even though he has yet to graduate high school. Whether the lofty expectations are fair

or not, it is likely that Brown will step in and provide some much-needed punch to what was a weak running game last season. Keep in mind though that head coach Mack Brown has been reluctant in the past to play freshmen in skill positions early on: Cedric Benson did not start against Oklahoma his first year and, as a redshirt freshman, Vince Young shared snaps with Chance Mock the first few games.

**Jaxon Shipley** — WR, 6'0" 170 lbs. (Brownwood HS/Brownwood)

If bloodlines are any indication, Shipley will be a star. His big brother Jordan, you should remember, set many a receiving record at Texas. Jaxon comes out of high school as one of the best receivers in the nation and will presumably be right in the mix for a spot in the wideout rotation. Expect him to help out in the return game too. He hasn't blown anyone away with his athleticism, but does everything well and, most importantly, seems eager to work on his size

RECRUITS continues on PAGE 8

SUPER BOWL XLV

Problems overshadow Super Bowl week

**By Dan Hurwitz**  
Daily Texan Columnist

As of today, at least to my knowledge, no technology exists that can prevent poor weather.

It happens.

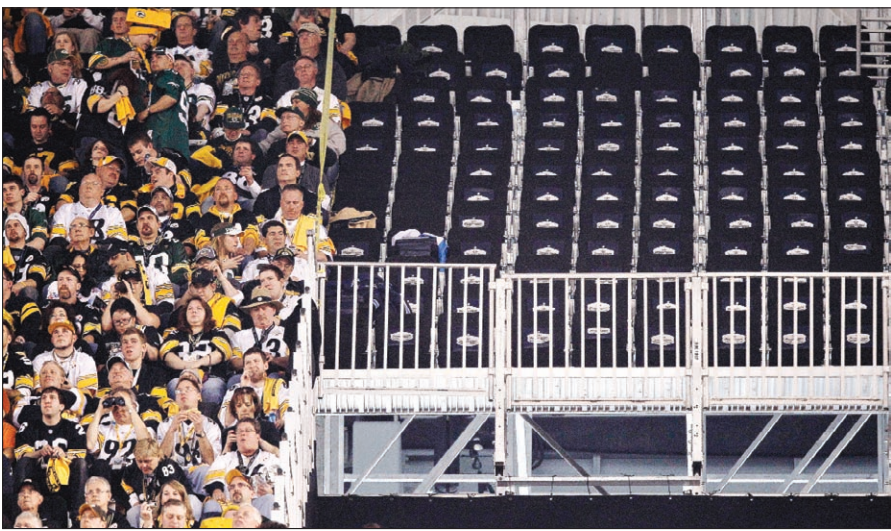
Neither Dallas, Fort Worth, Arlington, Irving, Highland Park, Grapevine, Mesquite, Denton, Richardson nor even Plano (east or west) could do anything about it.

It was a shame that the weather was miserable last week as North Texas was turned into a giant ice cube. Events were cancelled. Roads were closed. People were stranded. That isn't how Super Bowl week is supposed to be spent. And it doesn't happen often.

Odds are that next time the Super Bowl is in North Texas, no more than a sweatshirt and jeans should be needed when going out.

But first, they have to get that next Super Bowl.

Despite an entertaining game, there were plenty of gaffes involved — many having little to do



Unsafe seats were one of many problems that North Texas faced during Super Bowl week.

Chris O'Meara  
Associated Press

with the weather conditions.

Much of what was overheard inside Cowboys Stadium on Sunday were complaints.

Fans were displeased with their experience at The Death Star.

It began way before more than 1,000 fans found out they were unable to sit in their designated seats.

Prior to entering the gates of Cowboys Stadium, people had to wait more than four hours in a line that looked five times the size of the line of Splash Mountain at Disney World. But these people weren't waiting for a long, wet drop in a boat while listening to "Zippity Doo Dah." They were in line to get patted down by a stranger and walk through a metal detector.

Luckily for thousands of media members, many of whom had no business being at the game (including me), were able to walk right by

the line as if they had a fast pass to cut the line.

Once through security, it was almost impossible to know which way to proceed. This was due to the cluelessness of the event staff and their all-blue uniforms with the company's "S.A.F.E." logo on it. The hundreds, if not thousands, of event staff that were hired for

PROBLEMS continues on PAGE 8

NFL knew of, couldn't solve seat problems beforehand

**By Howard Fendrich**  
The Associated Press

DALLAS — The NFL knew last week there were problems with the installation of temporary Super Bowl seating sections and hoped until hours before kickoff that they could be fixed.

"At the end, we just ran out of time," NFL executive vice president Eric Grubman said Monday.





Four hundred people were forced to give up their seats for the Green Bay Packers' 31-25 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday night, and instead had to watch the game on monitors or use standing-room platforms in corners of Cowboys Stadium.

Another 850 fans were moved from their seats in the temporary sections to other seats.

SEATS continues on PAGE 8

SIDELINE

NCAA

	(19) MISSOURI	86
	(2) KANSAS	103
	(4) PITTSBURG	71
	(25) W. VIRGINIA	66

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Chassidy Fussell, 24



**Position:**  
Guard  
**Height:** 5'10"  
**Class:**  
Freshman  
**Hometown:** Troy, Tenn.

Chassidy Fussell was named Big 12 Freshman of the Week on Monday for her play against Kansas on Feb. 5 in which she scored 25 points.

TRIVIA TUESDAY

When was the last time Texas men's basketball started conference play 8-0?

Answer: 1977-78. Texas started 8-0.

AP TOP 25 MEN'S BASKETBALL

1	Ohio State
2	Kansas
3	Texas
4	Pittsburgh
5	Duke
6	San Diego State
7	BYU
8	Notre Dame
9	Villanova
10	Connecticut
11	Georgetown
12	Syracuse
13	Wisconsin
14	Purdue
15	Arizona
16	Louisville
17	Florida
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MEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK



Corey Leamon | Daily Texan File Photo

Sophomore J'Covan Brown attempts a shot in Texas' 20-point win against Oklahoma on Jan. 15. Brown has been the Longhorn's first man off the bench in almost every game this year.

# Brown's clutch shooting merits nickname from fellow players

By Will Anderson  
Daily Texan Staff

Whether he wants it or not, J'Covan Brown has earned a nickname in the locker room.

"All my teammates call me Big Shot, I don't know why," Brown said. "It's from my teammates, so I'll take it."

When Texas Tech got within six points on Saturday, Brown hit two three-pointers within 1:30 of each other to get Texas out of a scoring funk and put the Red Raiders away.

"When we need that big shot, they know who to come to," Brown said. "My teammates have that confidence in me."

The sophomore guard has developed the reputation of a big-game player. He scored a season-high 23 points in a crucial win at Kansas last month and routinely provides a spark off the bench with a clutch jumper or driving layup.

"What's key to anybody who comes off the bench is that you gotta be ready every night, because you don't know when you're going to be called on," said Texas head coach Rick Barnes. "You have to have a mindset."

Still, Brown was quick to deflect the praise.

"Jordan [Hamilton] takes all the big shots," he said. "I like how he doesn't care how much time there is or if it's the last shot, he's going to take it."

With at least eight points and three assists in the last two games, Brown will remain one of Texas' most important reserves and one of the Longhorns capable of taking a game-winning shot.

## Sooners up next

After taking Sunday off, the team returned to practice on Monday and started deconstructing film of the weekend's win.

"We'll go in today and we'll sit down and we'll talk about what we didn't like from the Tech game, and then we'll talk about what we've got to do to get ready to play Wednesday," Barnes said.

They'll also watch the tape from the their win over Oklahoma on Jan. 15. Since the last time the two teams met, Texas has been on a 6-0 winning streak while Oklahoma is 4-1 with wins against Baylor and Colorado. The Sooners have also increased their field-goal shooting to an average of 46.5 percent per game.

"They've definitely gotten better, and they're capable of winning," Barnes said. "Oklahoma's improved. All you have to do is look at the numbers."

## Smooth sailing

Texas does not face any ranked opponents in the second half of its Big 12 regular season schedule, which begins Wednesday at Oklahoma.

The Longhorns' final eight games looked much scarier in November. The slate includes preseason No. 17 Baylor and No. 3 Kansas State. Both are now out of The Associated Press Top 25, with the Bears receiving four votes in the most recent poll.

"Any team in college can beat anybody, so every game you gotta look at it like you're playing against a top team," Brown said. "It's not like high school where you can relax for a game."

Barnes wasn't worried because he still sees the Big 12 tournament as a chance to impress the selection committee.

"That will take care of itself," Barnes said. "You've got your own postseason tournament."

The Longhorns' final eight opponents have a combined conference record of 25-37.

# PROBLEMS continues from PAGE 7

one 18-hour day knew their way around the stadium as well as anyone else who had never been there.

It wasn't their fault for not knowing anything though. They were not prepared — or at least the few I spoke to had no clue about what they were supposed to do. I started feeling bad for them when fans were becoming furious.

Much of the frustration came from the fans whose seats were deemed unsafe.

"I spent \$10,000 on this ticket and they don't have a seat for me," one woman donning a Green Bay jersey yelled.

"Detroit didn't have any problems like this," said a sweaty Pittsburgh fan, who attended Super Bowl XL, as he waited for an elevator as kick-off neared.

The fans that were left seatless were taken to a section on the field behind the Steelers' bench but were unable to see the game from that area. The 400 of them were granted triple the face value of the ticket in addition to free

merchandise and tickets to Super Bowl XLVI in Indianapolis next year. The NFL should not have to do that.

There were also problems for the 5,000 fans who bought \$200 tickets to watch the game on big screens outside of the stadium.

A caller on Dallas radio this morning said that he and his family left in the first quarter. The four screens all had views obstructed by trees. He also said that he failed to get a beer after waiting for 40 minutes and the four food vendors were unable to serve even a fraction of everyone who ended up watching the game while cold rain fell on them.

To make things even worse, there were other embarrassing moments that included Christina Aguilera's butchering of the national anthem and The Black Eyed Peas' unimpressive half-time performance during which the speakers did not appear to be working too well.

Things just did not go as planned. North Texas tried. They failed.

# DOYLE continues from PAGE 7

you go into a game expecting to win, while still realizing you have to work hard and play well to beat the other team. I think that confidence factor that they instilled in us at Lake Travis can carry over to the next level and help me be a leader."

The all-state offensive lineman joins a recruiting class ranked third in the country according to *Rivals.com*. While Doyle has been talking extensively to different coaches from the Texas staff, he's also been able to meet fellow recruits and players throughout the recruiting process.

"I had a chance to meet all guys during my official [visit], and it was cool to kind of be in the same situation. We're coming in with a new coaching staff, so its like we're all in the same boat," Doyle said. "I got to meet some of the offensive line guys like Josh Cochran and Garrett Greenlee, and they're all really good guys. I think Texas did a great job with recruiting because all these guys I meet have a lot in common with me. It's easy to build relationships with them. I can't think of one guy who I didn't like."

# RECRUITS continues from PAGE 7

and speed this offseason.

**Quandre Diggs** — CB, 5'10" 190 lbs. (Angleton HS/Angleton)

The younger brother of San Diego Charger Quentin Jammer, Diggs is another super sibling. While undersized at the cornerback position, Diggs is athletic and has a good enough feel for the game to make up for his vertical shortcomings. An early enrollee, Diggs will get acclimated to the college life this spring and might be an early contributor next fall for a position that is wide open.

**Steve Edmond** — LB, 6'3" 225 lbs. (Daingerfield HS/Daingerfield)

Imagine this: sideline-to-sideline speed similar to Derrick Johnson's and a body that will remind fans of Sergio Kindle. Edmond is as close to a sure thing as there is at the linebacker position. In fact, he could also contribute coming out of a three-point stance on passing situations. But the smart money is that Edmond will be the first linebacker off the bench for relief and depth purposes. He won't supplant the guys in front of him — Keenan Robinson, Emmanuel

Acho and Jordan Hicks — but it's easy to think that Edmond will be one of the first defensive substitutions to check into the game and a terror on special teams.

**Desmond Jackson** — DT, 6'1" 278 lbs. (Westfield HS/Houston)

Last summer, defensive tackle was the biggest question mark heading into fall camp, and those issues were never resolved during the season. If Jackson can add some weight, he might provide relief for last season's struggling run defense, and he's also quick enough to get to the passer.

# SEATS continues from PAGE 7

"It was obviously a failure on our behalf, and we have to take responsibility for that," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "We had, obviously, a lot of challenges this week. There were a lot of things we were trying to deal with. But there's no excuses. When you put on an event like this, you know you're going to have those sorts of challenges."

He said the league would give tickets for next year's Super Bowl to

the 400 fans left without a place to sit Sunday. The league already had said it would offer those 400 people refunds of triple the face value of their Steelers-Packers tickets.

A total of about 15,000 temporary seats were added to \$1.2 billion Cowboys Stadium, and Sunday's attendance was announced at 103,219, just short of the Super Bowl-record 103,985 who were at the Rose Bowl for the 1980 NFL championship game.

Sunday's temporary seats filled open platforms that are usually standing-room only "party pass" areas for Cowboys games.

Grubman said there "was no vertical structural issue that we were aware of from the police department," but that issues arose with the "final installation of railings, of tightening risers, steps, things of that nature — and that's what did not get completed at the end."

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**WONDERWORD**

By DAVID OUELLET

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ARRAIGNMENTS IN CRIMINAL CASES

Solution: 7 letters

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U N W C H A R G E S A E L E R  
S D A E S G R I G H T E Y G I  
P E L C I C I E P S A K L D T  
E R C A T V H E V R L E L U T  
C S E N I S E E Y O K N A J E  
T T R L A T T R D T K D M D N  
N A A S I Z I A G U R E R O O  
A N P S S M I N T C L O O C I  
D D E W P E I N I E A E F U T  
N C R A O R C N G S M S I M A  
E O P L A N C O A O T E E E U  
F S P E E D Y C R R C S N N T  
E T H E C T I C P Y E O T I  
D S T S G N I D E C O R P S

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2/8

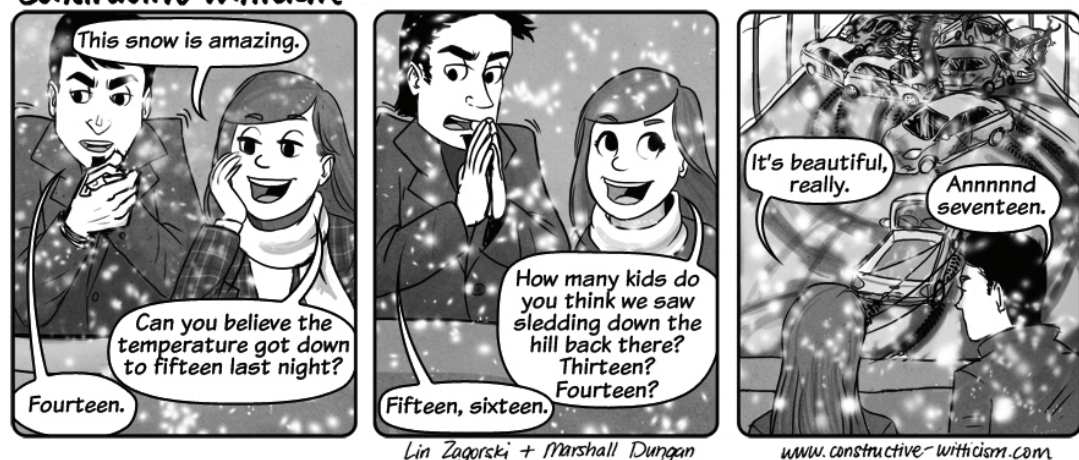
Acts, Case, Charges, Code, Costs, Defendant, Document, Formally, Forty-eight, Hearing, Hectic, Initial, Judge, Laws, Not Guilty, Plea, Post, Preliminary, Prepare, Proceedings, Process, Prosecutors, Recognizance, Release, Review, Revoke, Right, Schedule, Situation, Speedy, Statements, Suspect, Talk, Understand, Weekend, Written  
**Yesterday's Answer: Doctorate**

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## Constructive Witticism



INCOHERENT JARGON



Word From a Bird : 36 Hours Later

By Aron Fernandez



B000000000000000000000000000000!

## Big Black Nothing

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ghost of  
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What... No. Dude. It's your roommate. Whatever. You should call your parents more often.

They miss  
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	2			8			5	6
3				5	2	7		
					3	1		8
8	9						6	
		4				5		
	1						3	2
4			1	7				
			3	4	8			1
6	8			5			4	

Yesterday's solution

8	2	3	7	6	1	4	5	9
7	4	5	2	9	3	6	8	1
6	1	9	5	4	8	2	7	3
2	5	1	9	7	6	8	3	4
4	3	6	1	8	2	5	9	7
9	8	7	4	3	5	1	2	6
1	9	2	3	5	4	7	6	8
3	6	4	8	2	7	9	1	5
5	7	8	6	1	9	3	4	2

this terrible life



Guntfinger  
~~Guntland~~ the Alien Comics

by Dirty McAwesome by Riki Tsui



don't worry; we know. -comics ed.

## SecondSHIFT



**The New York Times**  
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0104

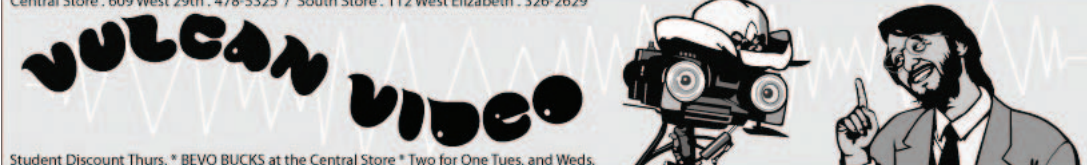


Puzzle by David Hanson

32 Comic who quipped "Weather forecast for tonight: dark"	44 Bar mitzvah toast	53 Barfly's binge
33 Lack of experience	48 Like a 45° or 60° angle	54 Partner of baseball and apple pie
38 Family name in Chicago politics	49 Internet cafe connection	55 Induction-refusing boxing champ
39 Decorative plant holder	50 Yemeni port	56 Highlighted it
	51 Black-bordered news item	57 Key near the space bar
	52 Major	58 Fizzle out

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BLINDING RAYS OF LIGHT

Erick Gutierrez, a Papa John's delivery man, waits at a friend at the Travis County Tax Office on Airport Blvd. Monday afternoon.



Tamir Kalifa  
Daily Texan Staff

Contest funds student ideas for fighting social woes

By Katrina Tollin  
Daily Texan Staff

University students worldwide will compete this week for a chance to win a \$50,000 grand prize to jump-start their plan for social entrepreneurship. The fifth annual Dell Social Innovation Competition is a partnership between Dell Computers and the LBJ School's RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service.

"We want to see transformative, interdisciplinary solutions to anything from health issues, educational issues,

to potable water and nutritional food," said Mary Beth Bennett, a graduate research assistant for the RGK Center and graduate student in advertising.

"We think UT has a big part to play in expanding student entrepreneurship," Bennett said. Jeff Paine, a finalist from last year's competition, graduated with a master's degree in chemical engineering. He now works full time on his project, Break it Down, a sustainable compost program.

"It was a good experience ... as far as writing a business plan and being prepared to present and send it ... just

putting in all the effort and preparation, not only for the competition but just for the business itself," Paine said.

In order to apply, students must submit a 500-word plan for their idea by Feb. 14. Selected applicants will be announced in March and will receive guidance on refining their idea until the final winner is announced in May.

"The vision for the competition is to spark the entrepreneurial spirit in students towards solving a social problem," said Suzi Sosa, RGK Center assistant director for programs.

Dell and RGK will award \$100,000

in total cash prizes and Dell laptops for finalists as seed money for their ideas. The first place winner will receive \$50,000, and selected semi-finalists will attend idea-building seminars and receive coaching to further refine their ideas.

Student participants from UT will also be entered in a drawing for a free Dell laptop. As of Friday, 25 UT students have entered the competition.

For more information on the Dell Social Innovation Competition to view entries or to submit an idea, visit [dellsocialinnovationcompetition.com](http://dellsocialinnovationcompetition.com).

Increase in UT graduation rate defies national findings' trend

By Amy Thornton  
Daily Texan Staff

While more students across the nation are joining classes of incoming college students, the increase is not translating to students walking across graduation stages four, five or even six years later, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

The department recently published a report based on information from more than 6,700 institutions. According to the document, more than half of first-time, full-time students pursuing bachelor's degrees at four-year institutions completed their degrees within six years at the institutions where they enrolled. The percentage has remained level with the 2008 and 2007 data.

However, UT defied the trend with an increase in graduation rates of the larger incoming classes.

"We're seeing an increase in terms of both degrees produced and overall number of graduates," said Kristi Fisher, associate vice provost in the Office of Information Management and Analysis. "It takes a lot to move the rates, but if you look back 10 years you can see a marked increase and they have been steadily rising."

According to the UT Office of Information Management and Analysis, the graduation rate rose from about 76 percent of the 2000 incoming class to about 80 percent of the 2003 incoming class. The University's peer institutions, such as Texas A&M University, have experienced similar increases. The Texas A&M Retention and Graduation Report showed a graduation increase from about 77 percent in the 2000 incoming class to almost 80 percent in the 2003 incoming class.

"These rates vary by a lot of different factors such as region, level of preparedness of incoming freshmen or type of institution," Fisher said.

Though UT goes against the national tendencies in terms of graduation percentages, the University remains consistent with the trend of increased enrollment. Application and admission rates have steadily increased in the last five to seven years, according to Office of Admissions Deputy Director Augustine Garza.

"There are thousands more students graduating high school in the state of Texas today than ever before," Garza said. "Therefore, there are more students interested in coming to UT than ever before."

TEXAS GRADUATION RATES

Admission year	UT	A&M
2001	75.6	77.7
2002	77.8	78.3
2003	79.1	79.7

\* UT numbers represent percentage of students who graduated within 2-5 years after admission. A&M rates show students who graduated up to 6 years after admission.  
Compiled from UT Office of Information Management and Analysis and A&M Retention and Graduation Report.

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The Monument to Joe Louis is seen in Detroit on Monday. One of the most talked-about Super Bowl ads showed hip-hop star Eminem driving a sleek Chrysler through the city streets.

# Super Bowl ad rallies interest in Detroit

By Jeff Karoub & Mike Householder  
The Associated Press

DETROIT — To a pulsating beat, hip-hop star Eminem drives a sleek Chrysler through the streets of Detroit, proudly cruising by the city's landmarks, towering skyscrapers and the hopeful faces of its people. His journey ends with an unapologetic message: "This is the Motor City, and this is what we do."

A day after it aired, one of the most-talked about Super Bowl ads sent shivers of pride through the battered city, which hopes car buyers are willing to look past Chrysler's billion-dollar bailout and embrace the idea that if a vehicle is "Imported from Detroit," that's reason enough to buy it.

"It's like an anthem or rallying cry for Detroit," Aaron Morrison of Mason City, Iowa, told The Associated Press via Facebook. "It makes me want to buy my next car made in America."

Morrison, a photographer, said

the ad even inspired him to consider moving to Detroit to work for Chrysler.

The two-minute ad was unusual for its length, airing during a broadcast in which a 30-second spot costs \$3 million. And it framed the gritty urban images with an attitude that embraced the city's past and its survival instinct.

"What does this city know about luxury, huh?" the narrator asks. "What does a town that's been to hell and back know about the finer things in life? Well, I'll tell you — more than most. You see, it's the hottest fires that make the hardest steel."

For Chrysler, which emerged from bankruptcy in June 2009 the commercial kicked off an advertising campaign that it hopes will draw buyers back to showrooms and revives the brand.

"Detroit's ascendancy mirrors Eminem's own struggles and accomplishments," Chrysler brand CEO and President Olivier Francois said in a statement. "This is not simply yet another celebrity in a TV spot.

It has meaning. Like his music and story, the new Chrysler is 'Imported from Detroit' with pride."

Of course, the tagline is not without some irony.

"It's interesting that it took an outside eye ... to really kind of cut to some of the core basics of what is a city and what is a place," said Clayson, an attorney and director of the Detroit Creative Corridor, a nonprofit that aims to establish the city as a global center for creative innovation. "They did something right, definitely. I'm not an expert, but I think they really summed up kind of where we've been and where we are as a city."

The stirring ad painted a picture that the outside world doesn't often see, said one retiree from suburban Detroit who was walking through downtown on Monday.

"It was very touching. It gave me goose bumps," said Mario Succuro, 64, from Plymouth. "People don't know the city of Detroit. ... And there's some problems over here, of course. ... Detroit is coming back. We're down because of autos, but it doesn't mean that we're dead."

# ZACH continues from PAGE 12

and still don't know what they want to do waste their four-year experience.

"If you're out in a place like this, you can explore anything," Braff said. "Those people that graduate school and still don't know what they want to do, I think they didn't explore what a big giant school like this has to offer enough."

Braff said that the Internet and social media networks created a different college experience, one much easier than he experienced 13 years ago. He compared the difference to the stark contrast between the top research tool of his generation, the Dewey Decimal System, and the Wikipedia engine available today.

In the SAC ballroom, Braff spoke uncensored, talking about his hard time finding a job as an actor in New York and his tearful success at the showing of his film "Garden State" at the Sundance Film Festival. His easygoing personality and personal history surprised many students.

Journalism freshman Chey-

enne Matthews-Hoffman, for instance, only knew him from "Scrubs."

"I like that he was really chill with us and didn't mind sharing all his embarrassing stories," Matthews-Hoffman said. "I didn't know that he was a director and that he did writing."

The event also featured a student question-and-answer session, in which Braff answered questions from more than 20 UT students on topics ranging from his most embarrassing moment to his favorite music, indulging fans when they asked him for pictures, hugs and handshakes.

After more than an hour of laughter, Braff ended his visit with a profound thanks to everyone that supported him and a call for students to do what they're passionate about and to take it seriously.

"Of course it's important to go to school and get a degree," Braff said. "But follow your heart, do what you love and be good at it."

"Of course it's important to go to school and get a degree," Braff said. "But follow your heart, do what you love and be good at it."

# MUSIC continues from PAGE 12

nally stopped signing "Black and Yellow," they can jam to Wiz Khalifa's newest song "Roll Up." And get your head out of the marijuana-filled gutter because "Roll Up" is about Khalifa being there for a girl no matter what. Produced by Stargate, the production team

responsible for many of Ne-Yo's hits, the song features a simple, familiar melody. Khalifa raps and sings the hook with ease, gliding along with the synthesized beats. "Roll Up" is a tame grab for a pop crossover hit and will likely fulfill its goal.

# ALBUM continues from PAGE 12

beautiful complexity.

The only recordings of "Lotus Flower" have been of its acoustic rendition, but the performance was given with an intensity and passion signature to Thom Yorke. Technical guitar riffs and high-pitched melodious lyrics punctuate the band's ethos and enhance the song's general effect.

Last summer, guitarist Ed O'Brien said to the BBC's Adam Buxton that "it's the best record [we've] ever made. It's very different from what we did last time."

The previous Radiohead album *In Rainbows* received overwhelming praise from both fans and critics in 2007. Entertainment Weekly called the album "a full musical and emotional spectra which conjures breathtaking beauty." It won Best Alternative Music Album at the 2008 Grammy Awards, among various other accolades from around the world.

Radiohead also utilized a new means of distribution in which fans got to pay whatever they wanted for the album, resulting in a whopping 3 million albums sold worldwide in both digital and physical formats at an average of \$8 an album. College students on a tight budget are keeping their fingers crossed hoping that Radiohead will do this again for their next release, but no news as to their means of distribution has been released.

Nearly two decades into their career, Radiohead still manages to captivate its audience in a way unlike any alternative band in history. As fans hold their breath for what is sure to be a promising album, hype has peaked not only in the U.K. but around the world.

"I think that Radiohead's approach to album sales is unique and appropriate for today's age in music," said Katherine Espinosa, Radiohead fan and music promoter for the Beauty Bar. "Their music and overall vision gets better with each successive album, and I imagine their next album will revolutionize the sound of music as we know it."

# THE BOYS OF TEXAS

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Ryan Propes | Daily Texan Staff

Radio-Television-Film Professor John Pierson moderates the discussion with actor Zach Braff, who got into character for what served as the grand opening of the SAC ballroom.

## Zach of all trades

By Jody Serrano

Biology sophomore Delaney Dowd was one of the first in line the day the Distinguished Speakers Committee gave out the tickets for “An Evening With Zach Braff.” She arrived at the Texas Union at 4 a.m. and camped out with a friend until the box office opened at 7:30 a.m.

“I [felt] like I [got] a golden ticket from the Chocolate Factory,” Dowd said.

As the time for “An Evening with Zach Braff” grew nearer on Monday night, the crowd at the Student Activities Center teemed with excitement for Braff, the widely

known “Scrubs” funnyman. The audience burst into laughter even before Braff made an appearance, opening with a reel featuring clips from “Scrubs,” “Chicken Little,” “Garden State” and other works from Braff’s career.

Working off the excitement from the reel, Braff entered in an explosive style, running through the room with his hands up and bringing the audience to their feet.

“It got me inspired about my own career,” Braff said told the audience.

Moderated by radio-television-film lecturer John Pierson, the

event was organized by UT’s Distinguished Speakers Committee and marked the opening of the new Student Activity Center ballroom as well as Braff’s first visit to Austin. In his lecture, Braff retold his experience at Uncommon Objects, a novelty store on South Congress Avenue.

“That place is amazing,” Braff said. “I spent so much time in there, and I don’t personally have a prescription for marijuana, but anyone that did, they should take their medicine and go in there.”

When he arrived on campus, Braff said in a one-on-one interview with the Texan he quickly learned a lesson that all UT students should know within their first week at school.

“You hate two vowels,” Braff said, referring to UT’s infamous rivalry with Oklahoma University. “And you do not use those vowels on campus.”

As a student in Northwestern in the 1990s, Braff studied ra-

dio-television-film and was part of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. Aside from studying his chosen major, Braff also practiced the “college is a time to have fun” philosophy. Braff claimed that he wasn’t crazy, although he did go to parties and have fun “like all good college kids.”

Despite dabbling in college parties, Braff also experienced the tremendous pressure of getting good grades. Braff said that most of the time he was so worried about his grades he didn’t take the opportunity to enjoy the class.

“I wish I could go back. They say youth is wasted on the young, but college is wasted on college students,” Braff said. “If I could go back, I would take more wacky classes and think outside of my comfort zone.”

Braff went on to say that the people that graduate from college

**ZACH** continues on **PAGE 11**

### MUSIC PREVIEW

## Promising artists, familiar stars vie for top chart spots

By Christopher Nguyen  
Daily Texan Staff

### Avril Lavigne “What the Hell” RCA Records

Remember the girl from high school that was bratty, dumb as a rock and annoying? In the school of Top 40s, that’s Avril Lavigne. Off of her upcoming album *Goodbye Lullaby*, “What the Hell” picks up the clappy, sing-songy template of her song “Girlfriend” from the trash and sprays some air freshener in the form of girl power lyrics to make it seem new. Although Lavigne has lost any pretense of being alternative, she lacks the charisma to make her pop sound genuine. “What the Hell” is shrill, loud and auto-tuned to an insufferable degree. Seriously, what the hell is this?

### Rihanna “S&M” Def Jam Recordings

Rihanna is kinky. And she wants the world to know on her latest single from *Loud*, “S&M.” Under pulsating and gliding Euro-tinged synths, she sings with powerful gusto about how “chains and whips excite me.” More nice than naughty, the single works because it unabashedly sides itself with pop rather than electronica. Going from playful to seductive in a second, Rihanna has never sounded more confident and in control of her limited vocals. Apparently, all she needed was a whip.

### Nicki Minaj featuring Drake “Moment 4 Life” Young Money Entertainment

Those scared off by Nicki Minaj’s alter ego “Roman Zolanski,” who asserts herself with frantic raps in songs like “Bottom’s Up” and “Monster,” can come out from under the bed and meet the gentler “Martha” on her new single “Moment 4 Life.” Exhibiting a quiet, reflective attitude and simple, raspy vocals, Minaj recounts the trials of success and the joy it brings.

Twinkling piano keys add nostalgia and poignancy to the beats while Drake’s heartfelt guest rap complements Minaj’s sincerity. “Moment 4 Life” proves that underneath the wigs and jarring voice changes is a young woman just living the dream.

### Patrick Wolf “The City” Hideout Music

Patrick Wolf’s “The City” is like a good episode of “Glee.” It’s obvious and syrupy from the minute it begins, but boy does it make you feel good. He strips off the glam-rock and brooding sound that defined his breakthrough work. With thudding drums, hand claps, smooth piano chords and saxophone solos all playing in perfect harmony, one can almost see Wolf singing the hook “won’t let the city destroy our love” while dancing in the streets. On “The City,” Wolf doesn’t assume that life is always rosy, yet he knows there sure are some damn good days.

### “Roll Up” Wiz Khalifa Rostrum Records

Now that your friends have fi-

**MUSIC** continues on **PAGE 11**

## Third season of ‘Parks’ addresses flaws of first

### TV TUESDAY By Alex Williams

“Parks and Recreation” was conceived as a spinoff of “The Office” and the two share a few basic elements, such as the mockumentary aesthetic, a reliance on interview-style talking heads to provide punch lines and even cast member Rashida Jones. Unfortunately, during its mercifully brief first season, the show failed to live up to its predecessor. “Parks and Recreation” quickly rebounded with a strong second season, and its third season, now in progress on NBC, is shaping up to be even better.

After its weak first season, which didn’t know how to use its comedic lead actress Amy Poehler, “Parks and Recreation” came out of the gate swinging with its second season premiere, a memorable episode that showcased everything that makes the show work. The episode, which featured enthusiastic government employee Leslie Knope (Poehler) unintentionally marrying two male penguins at the zoo, reintroduced the show’s deep ensemble cast and convincingly established the small-town politics that drive the show’s plot.

From there, the show’s second season continued to juggle hilarious character work with smartly written stories, leading to an early renewal from NBC so production could start on a third season before Poehler went on maternity leave. The first six episodes of season three, produced while all the other major sitcoms were on summer hiatus, are among the best the show has ever done. With Knope’s job (and the future of Pawnee’s government) in jeopardy, the aptly titled season premiere, “Go Big or Go Home,” featured Knope and her coworkers



Courtesy of NBC Universal

NBC’s “Parks & Recreation” has finally come into its own and shed “The Office” overtones in its third season.

deciding to gamble their jobs on reviving the local tradition of the Harvest Festival, a fall carnival that could pull the town out of its financial slump.

The fast approaching deadline of the Harvest Festival has reinvented both the show’s story line, which stalls at times, and the cast, giving proceedings a sense of purpose that was all too lacking in previous seasons. Despite this, the storyline is always overshadowed by the show’s ensemble cast, which is packed with some of the best comedic actors working today. With Aziz Ansari’s sleazy Tom, Chris Pratt’s gleefully dumb Andy or Aubrey Plaza’s low-key, sarcastic April, the cast doesn’t have a weak link.

However, the show’s secret weapon is the best TV character this side of “Breaking Bad,” Ron Swanson (Nick Offerman). As Knope’s boss who has a weakness for breakfast foods, scotch and all things manly, Offerman consistently steals entire episodes from the rest of the ensemble simply by showing up. Thursday’s upcoming episode focuses on Ron and is

easily the funniest of the six NBC sent out for review thanks to Offerman’s ability to make an good one-liner great.

New additions Rob Lowe and Adam Scott, brought in at the close of last season as budget analysts, fit perfectly with the rest of the cast. Lowe, who struggled last season as the relentlessly positive Chris, becomes one of the show’s highlights this year. Adam Scott’s Ben is a less obviously funny character, existing mostly as a straight man to the rest of the cast, but Scott’s under-the-radar sarcastic presence is a huge asset to the show.

Thursday’s episode of “Parks and Recreation” is as good a spot as any to start watching. Each cast member gets at least one fantastic joke, and Offerman turns in his best performance on the series yet. As “The Office” declines and starts shedding cast members, “Parks and Recreation” is getting better with every episode. Not only is it the funniest show in NBC’s much-hyped Thursday night line-up, but the funniest show on television, period.



Courtesy of Radiohead

Radiohead, who teased fans last year with their newest single “Lotus Flower” at last year’s Haiti Benefit, say their latest album is finally complete and unlike their previous releases.

## Radiohead single offers peek at album

By William James Gerlich  
Daily Texan Staff

Last year proved revolutionary for alternative electronic music with the release of *The Age of Adz* by Sufjan Stevens and *The Suburbs* by Arcade Fire, however the revolution will continue as the original alternative electronic band, Radiohead, is expected to release its next album within the upcoming months.

Although an official release date has not been set, hype escalated last week after Thom Yorke presented the Album of the Year award to music producer Flying Lotus at the Worldwide Awards in London. After the award show, Yorke told the BBC’s Giles

Peterson that the eighth full-length album was complete.

Katy Vonnannon, a UT human development and family sciences senior, is one of many students on campus who listens to Radiohead. She first heard *The Bends*, Radiohead’s second album, on her father’s stereo about 10 years ago. Her father’s interest in the band sparked Vonnannon’s interest as well, which later grew into her own obsession.

“Radiohead’s last three albums were absolute masterpieces, and I never get tired of listening to *In Rainbows*,” Vonnannon said. “Their talent surpasses all other alternative bands, and I’m thrilled to hear of a new album.”

Radiohead performed a sin-

### Lotus Flower Radiohead

**Genre:** Rock  
**For those who like:** Arcade Fire, Muse and Modest Mouse  
**Grade:** A

gle from the upcoming album at a benefit for Haiti over a year ago that gave fans a taste of what’s to come. The single, “Lotus Flower,” is anticipated to be the new “Reckoner,” comprised of all the trademarks Radiohead fans know and love — enigmatic lyrics, coiled energy and a haunting yet

**ALBUM** continues on **PAGE 11**